

## Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 NSC-07 PRS-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /083 W

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R 010915Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5033

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

S E C R E T ISTANBUL 0864

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TU, MOPS

SUBJ: SIXTH FLEET VISITS

REF: ANKARA 2227

### SUMMARY:

REFTEL REQUESTS OUR COMMENTS NEXT ROUND OF PROPOSED SIXTH FLEET VISITS. AS OUR COMMENTS IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE BEEN GIVEN AD HOC IN RESPONSE SPECIFIC REQUESTS, IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR EMB. AS WELL AS FOR US TO SUMMARIZE OUR VIEWS ON FLEET VISITS IN GENERAL AND PROPOSED VISITS IN PARTICULAR. END SUMMARY

### 1. AS EMB. AWARE, FLEET

VISITS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN OPPOSED BY LEFTIST ELEMENTS HERE, PARTICULARLY IN PRESS AND UNIVERSITIES, AND HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN USED AS EXCUSE FOR BELABORING USG AND "PUPPET" GOT LEADERS. AT TIMES (E.G. "BLOODY SUNDAY" IN FEB. 1969) VISITS HAVE BEEN USED AS CATALYST TO PROVOKE VIOLENCE AGAINST FLEET PERSONNEL TO CREATE LEFT-RIGHT STUDENT CLASHES AND FORCE GOT AUTHORITIES TO INTERVENE.

### 2. FOLLOWING IMPOSITION MARTIAL LAW IN 1971, POSSIBILITY AND PROBABILITY OF ORGANIZED ACTS OF VIOLENCE, EITHER EXTRA-MURAL OR

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INTRA-MURAL, HAVE GRADUALLY DECLINED AND WE HAVE BEEN IN

HAPPY POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO CONCUR IN EXPANDED SCHEDULE OF FLEET VISITS. IN THE PROCESS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO IGNORE FACT THAT SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF PUBLIC OPINION MOLDERS HERE REMAIN EAGER AND WILLING TO EXPLOIT ANY OPPORTUNITY TO USE FLEET VISITS TO ADVANCE THEIR PET THESIS CONCERNING "US IMPERIALISTS" AND ITS "LACKIES", I.E. GOT MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEADERS.

3. TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, LIKELIHOOD OF ORGANIZED MASS DEMONSTRATIONS OR ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST SHIPS OR PERSONNEL IS CURRENTLY AT ONE OF LOWEST EBBS IN PAST SEVERAL YEARS, DUE TO CONTINUING EFFECT OF DISRUPTION OF DISSIDENTS' ORGANIZATIONS DURING MARTIAL LAW PERIOD. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT WAY OF PRE-DICTING LIKELIHOOD OF SPONTANEOUS CLASHES ( IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT GRAND BAZAAR, WHICH IS MAJOR ATTRACTION FOR FLEET PERSONNEL, IS DIRECTLY NEXT TO ISTANBUL U.), NOR PLANNED TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS, CAPABILITY FOR WHICH STILL EXISTS. GIVEN RECENT INCREASE OF TENSIONS DUE TO VIRULENT PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST US ON POPPY ISSUE, GENERAL DISSATISFACTIONS WITH COALITION GOVERNMENT, AND FREE REIN ENJOYED BY PRESS SINCE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW, POTENTIAL FOR EXPLOITING ANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING FLEET PERSONNEL (I.E. DRUGS, INSULTS TO TURKISH FLAG OR OFFICIALS, ETC.) ARE IN OUR VIEW MORE SERIOUS THAN ANY TIME SINCE MARTIAL LAW IMPOSED IN 1971. IN OUR VIEW, WE WERE FORTUNATE THAT SUCH INCIDENTS AS ARREST OF CPL. LOFTHOUSE ON NARCOTICS CHARGES AND CUTTING OF PHONE AND ELECTRICAL CABLES BY USS INDEPENDENCE LAST YEAR GENERATED SO LITTLE ADVERSE PUBLICITY. FACT THAT MARTIAL LAW WAS STILL IN EFFECT NOT INSIGNIFICANT AND WE CANNOT COUNT ON BEING SO FORTUNATE IN EVENT FUTURE INCIDENTS. WE CONTINUE TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO EACH SHIP COMMANDER DURING HIS CALL AT CONGEN.

3. WE WERE DELIGHTED WITH ABSENCE OF UNTOWARD INCIDENTS DURING RECNT VISITS OF USS SURIBACHI AND USS LEAHY AND BELIEVE THIS WAS DUE IN PART TO FINE EFFORTS BY ALUSNA AND SHIPS' COMMANDERS TO THOROUGHLY BRIEF CREWS ON IMPORTANCE OF CIRCUMSPECT CONDUCT HERE AND CAREFUL SCREENING OF PERSONNEL GOING ASHORE. GIVEN CONTINUATION THESE EFFORTS AND ASSUMING NO DRASTIC CHANGE IN PRESENT  
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POLITICAL CLIMATE WE SEE NO OBJECTION TO VISITS PROPOSED  
REFTEL.

5. WITH REGARD FORRESTAL VISIT, USUAL PRACTICE OF ADVANCE VISIT BY NAVAL ATTACHE AND APPROPRIATE SHIPS OFFICERS, INCLUDING ADMIN AND PIO, IS MUTUAL ADVANTAGE AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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